

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities. The following community is advised that the **City of Lowell** proposes to utilize herbicides to maintain their Rights-of-Way.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the City of Lowell, as submitted by: Jamie Magaldi Assistant Public Works Superintendent.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held at the following location:

Friday, February 13, 2015 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM

Lowell Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 1365 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA 01851

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Ralph G. Snow, P.E. *Public Works Commissioner*
Department of Public Works
The City of Lowell
1365 Middlesex Street | Lowell, MA 01851
t: (978) 674-4111 | f: (978) 970-4071

The proposed VMP are also available for viewing at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website www.mass.gov/agr. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Pollard Memorial Library, 401 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA 01852

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the City of Lowell VMP until the close of business Friday, March 6, 2015.

Commentary should be sent to:

**Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2151**